Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, the quantity of sugar imported and exported during the relevant periods are as follows:—

(Qty. : Tonnes)

	1-4-94 to 31-12-94	1-4-93 to 31-12-93	1-4-92 to 31-12-92
Imports	17,54,038	190	1,343
Exports	6,016	1,83,519	85,731

Refusal to extend the Generalised Scheme of Preferences by European Union for Duty free Imports of Indian Textiles

3109. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has turned down Government's request to extend the concession of duty-free imports of Indian textiles under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences facility for at least another year;

(b) if so, whether Government has assessed the impact of European Union refusing duty concession for Indian textiles imports, particularly when the Indian textile industry has not developed fully yet and imports from countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal continue to enjoy zero duty entry resulting in the European buyers turning to these countries; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the Indian exports are not affected and help the Indian exporters now to compete with both the developed and less- developed countries under the new disposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The GSP is a non contractual instrument by which industrialised countries unilaterally extend tariff concessions to developing countries. While the European Union's latest scheme was being formulated, India had made a number of suggestions. These included, *inter alia,* a constructive and extended regime for preferential treatment under GSP, removal of GSP quotas and ceilings and deepening of tariff preferences. While the EU accepted some of our suggestions such as removal of GSP quotas and ceilings, in respect of other suggestions, the response has been either negative or partial.

The impact of the EU's new scheme on our textile exports will be moderated by the fact that our principal competitors will be equally affected. Further, developing countries with per capita income exceeding 6000 dollars will not be extended GSP benefits w.e.f. 1.1.1996.

Available trade statistics for the period January-February 1995 for textile items show that exports to EU during the period have increased substantially over the same period in 1994.

Modalities for formation of Export Committees

3110 SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to

Starred Question 174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December 1994 and state what would be the modalities for the formation of Expert Committees to look into various problems affecting export commodities under your Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Part (c) of the reply to the Starred Question 174 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1994 referred only to the representation on the Tobacco Board of tobacco growers, dealers, exporters and manufacturers. There is, however, no mention about the formation of Expert Committees.

Ban on Indian Books in Bangladesh

3111. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report published in the Economic Times dated 20th February, 1995 under the heading 'Indian books banned at fair' is correct;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such a ban can be imposed under the new WTO regime;

(e) whether Government would take up the matter at the forum; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The report under reference is not correct in as much as the terms and conditions of the particular book fair in Bangladesh prohibit sale or display, inter-alia, of any foreign books.

(b) and (c) The matter has not been taken up with the Bangladesh Government because the organisation of the fair and the imposition of the ban is by the Bangla Academy and not by the Government of Bangladesh.

(d) to (f) The questions do not arise as there is no ban on import of Indian books into Bangladesh.

Role of STC and MMTC in New Economic Policy

3112. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the use and need of keeping both MMTC and STC having similar trade activities after the new liberalised economic policy; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items hitherto chanalised through STC & MMTC, the Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient both the Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. Both the Corporations themselves have also been implementing plans and strategies to adapt to the current environment.

Dumping of Products by Foreign companies in India

3113. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign companies are dumping their products like steel, films etc. in India;